

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     GEORGE 00812 221144Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /069 W  
-----230137Z 064763 /72

R 221032Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4532  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0812

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GY, LY  
SUBJECT: LIBYAN INTERFERENCE IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

SUMMARY: LIBYAN EMBASSY IS PROMOTING UNITY OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY  
APPARENTLY AS PART OF LIBYAN POLICY OF ADVANCING INTERESTS OF  
ISLAM ABROAD. IN DOING THIS, LIBYANS MAY BE JEOPARDIZING GOOD  
RELATIONS WITH GOG. END SUMMARY.

1. SIX MONTHS AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION  
HERE, LIBYANS HAVE ACTIVELY BEGUN TO PROMOTE MUSLIM UNITY ON  
BASIS OF DEVOTION TO TRUE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM. NEWSHEET  
AL-MUJAHID--REPORTEDLY FINANCED BY LIBYAN EMBASSY--APPEARED  
ON APRIL 8 AS WEEKLY ORGAN OF AL-MUJAHIDEEN, FORMERLY GUYANA  
UNITED MUSLIM PARTY. AL-MUJAHID STATED THAT GOVERNMENT  
CONTROL OF MEDIA DID NOT ALLOW FOR FREE EXPRESSION OF MUSLIM  
OPINION OR DISSEMINATION OF TRUE ISLAM. NEWSHEET IS  
DEDICATED TO PRESERVING MUSLIM RELIGION AND PROMOTING  
GENERAL WELFARE OF COMMUNITY. TWO LETTERS WERE PUBLISHED  
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WHICH CORRECTED DISTORTIONS OF MUSLIM BELIEFS CARRIED IN  
GUYANA CHRONICLE. ONE ARTICLE CRITICIZED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR  
FOR SERVING ALCOHOL AT A RECEPTION. MOHAMED NISSAR,  
PRESIDENT OF UNITED SAD'R ISLAMIC ANJUMAN AND PEOPLE'S  
NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) MP, WAS ACCUSED OF MISREPRESENTING  
ISLAMIC TEACHINGS TO JUSTIFY SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT AND  
STATED THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES MUSLIMS REJECTED CALL

FOR COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

2. DURING PAST THREE MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL LIBYAN-SPONSORED MEETINGS OF MUSLIM GROUPS SUPPORTING BOTH PNC AND PPP IN EFFORT TO FORGE MUSLIM UNITY. TRADITIONALLY, APPROXIMATELY 70,000 MUSLIMS HERE HAVE BEEN DIVIDED OVER DIFFERING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

3. PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM IS REPORTEDLY AWARE OF LIBYAN INTERFERENCE IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY. WHEN LIBYANS SET UP DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE, FONMIN WILLS SPECIFICALLY TOLD THEM NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MUSLIM AFFAIRS. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT MEMBERS OF LIBYAN MISSION HAVE MADE DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT GOVERNMENT CENTERING ON ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST EAST INDIANS.

4. COMMENT: LIBYAN EFFORTS HERE APPEAR TO BE PART OF GADAFFI'S POLICY OF PROMOTING MUSLIM RELIGIOUS INTERESTS ABROAD, AND EXCEPT FOR THESE COVERT ACTIVITIES, LIBYAN EMBASSY HAS MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE. CALL FOR MUSLIM UNITY SEEMS PREDICATED ON ANTI-GOG STANCE. ALTHOUGH MUSLIMS INTERESTED IN UNITY ARE EXCHEWING ASSOCIATION WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR GROUP, GIVEN DOMINANT EAST INDIAN COMPOSITION OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY, THIS APPROACH WILL BE HARD TO MAINTAIN. CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT FOR RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS IN LINE WITH HINDU AND PPP RHETORIC. SOME MUSLIMS CLAIM TO BE OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIALIST POLICIES ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS. DUE TO DEEP DIVISIONS IN THE MUSLIM  
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COMMUNITY AND LACK OF LEADERSHIP, MUSLIMS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BECOME MAJOR OPPOSITION FORCE, BUT LIBYANS COULD EARN WRATH OF THE GOG FOR THEIR MACHINATIONS.

5. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE NOTICEABLE MOVEMENT IN GUYANA-LIBYA RELATIONS SINCE THE GOG WAS APPARENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN SOLICITING LIBYAN AID IN DECEMBER. THE GOG HAS NOT TAKEN UP A LIBYAN OFFER TO FINANCE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GUYANESE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI.  
BLACKEN

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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